

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above amendment and the following remarks are in reply to the non-final Office action of 05/03/2006. In light of this reply, reconsideration and further examination of this application are respectfully requested.

Seven claims (45 – 51) were pending in this application. Of these, five claims (46 – 50) had previously been withdrawn. In the above amendment, one claim (45) was amended, five claims (46 – 50) were cancelled, and six new claims (52 – 57) were added. Accordingly, eight claims (45 and 51 – 57) remain pending in this application.

In section 2 of the Office action, the Examiner rejected claim 45 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto, US Patent No. 5,442,470, in view of Lee, US Patent No. 5,988,827. However, in light of the above amendment to claim 45 and the remarks that follow, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection has been rendered moot.

In particular, claim 45 has been amended to include the following distinguishing limitations:

“a flexible printed circuit (FPC) attached to the display panel and having a driver integrated circuit (IC) directly mounted thereon; and,

“a groove formed on the lower surface of the mold frame, the groove receiving the driver IC when the FPC is bent toward the lower surface of the mold frame.” (Emphasis added.)

A review of the display device of Hashimoto (U.S. Patent No. 5,442,470) reveals that it includes an FPC 6 having an IC 7 and a groove 4b, which does not receive the IC 7. (See, e.g., FIGS. 2 and 3). In contrast, the display device of the present invention includes an FPC having a driver IC, and a groove that receives the driver IC (amended claim 45). Therefore, Hashimoto does not teach or disclose the features of the present invention as presently claimed in claim 45.

Further, while the display device of Hashimoto includes a groove 4b that receives a circuit board 3, the circuit board 3 is not directly mounted on the FPC 6. (See, FIGS. 2 and 3). In contrast, the display device of the present invention includes a groove receiving a driver IC, and the driver IC is directly mounted on the FPC (amended claim 45). Therefore, Hashimoto does not teach or disclose this feature of the present invention as presently claimed in claim 45.

A review of the Lee reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,988,827) reveals that it fails to supply the above deficiencies in teaching of Hashimoto with respect to claim 45. It is therefore respect-

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fully submitted that claim 45 is patentably distinguishable over the combination of Hashimoto and Lee.

In section 4, the Examiner rejected claim 45 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 8 of U.S. Patent No. 6,862,053.

Responsively, the Applicant has filed herewith the enclosed terminal disclaimer that overcomes this rejection.

In section 5, the Examiner allowed independent claim 51.

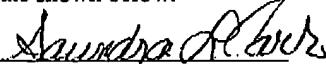
In reply to the foregoing, the Applicant cancelled claims 46 – 50 and added six new claims (52 – 57) that are dependent, directly or indirectly, from allowed independent claim 51.

In light of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that now-pending claims 45 and 51 – 57 are allowable over the art of record. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

If there are any questions regarding this Reply, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number indicated below.

Certification of Facsimile Transmission

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

 Saundra L. Carr

Aug. 1, 2006
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



Don C. Lawrence
Reg. No. 31,975
Applicant's attorney
Tel.: (949) 752-7040

Encl.: Terminal Disclaimer, as stated above.